

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, comprising the steps of:
 - determining an initial partitioning of the signal;
 - displaying a representation of the signal and a representation of the previously determined signal partitioning superimposed onto the representation of the signal;
 - acquiring at least one partitioning modification parameter through an intervention by a user;
 - modifying the partitioning of the signal in accordance with the at least one partitioning modification parameter; and
 - displaying a representation of the modified partitioning.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, in which the partitioning of the signal includes blocks of samples of the signal, and the at least one modification parameter is chosen from amongst a block height and a block width.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 1 or 2, in which the at least one modification parameter makes it possible to translate the partitioning with respect to the signal.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 1 or 2, in which the modified partitioning of the signal is selected from a predetermined set of partitionings.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 1 or 2, further comprising the step of simulating the coding and decoding of the signal, in which the displayed representation of the signal is the result of the step of simulating.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 5, in which distortions in the representation of the signal are emphasized.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, comprising the steps of:

determining at least one area of interest in the signal through an intervention by a user;

determining an initial partitioning of the signal, including partitioning areas; and

modifying the partitioning of the signal according to the at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion so that the at least one area of interest is situated entirely within a partitioning area.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 7 or 8, in which the partitioning of the signal is modified so that the partitioning areas are the smallest possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 7 or 8, in which the partitioning of the signal includes blocks of samples of the signal, and the modification of the partitioning includes the modification of at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height and a block width.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 7 or 8, in which the modification of the partitioning includes a translation of the partitioning with respect to the signal.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claims 7 or 8, in which the modification of the partitioning results in a modified partitioning which is selected from a predetermined set of partitionings.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of coding a digital signal representing physical quantities, including the division method according to Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

14. (Previously Presented) A device for dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, comprising:

means for determining an initial partitioning of the signal;

means for displaying a representation of the signal and a representation of the previously determined signal partitioning superimposed onto the representation of the signal;

means for acquiring at least one partitioning modification parameter through an intervention by a user; and

means for modifying the partitioning of the signal in accordance with the at least one partitioning modification parameter.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 14, in which the determination means are adapted to form a partitioning of the signal which includes blocks of samples of the signal, and the acquisition means are adapted to consider the at least one modification parameter from amongst a block height and a block width.

16. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 14 or 15, in which the acquisition means are adapted to consider a modification parameter making it possible to translate the partitioning with respect to the signal.

17. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 14 or 15, in which the means of modifying the partitioning are adapted to select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

18. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 14 or 15, further comprising means for simulating the coding and decoding of the signal in which the displayed representation of the signal is the result of the means for simulating.

19. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 18, adapted to emphasize distortions in the representation of the signal.

20. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 14 or 15, in which the determination, display, acquisition and modification means are incorporated in:

a microprocessor;

a read only memory containing a program for processing the data;

and

a random access memory containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

21. (Currently Amended) A device for dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, comprising:

means for determining at least one area of interest in the signal responsive to an intervention by a user;

means for determining an initial partitioning of the signal, including partitioning areas; and

means for modifying the partitioning of the signal according to the at least one area of interest and a predetermined criterion so that the at least one area of interest is situated entirely within a partitioning area.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 21 or 22, adapted to modify the partitioning of the signal so that the partitioning areas are as small as possible in order to satisfy the predetermined criterion.

24. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 21 or 22, in which the means for determining an initial partitioning are adapted to form a partitioning which includes blocks of samples of the signal, and the means for modifying the partitioning are adapted to modify at least one parameter chosen from amongst a block height and a block width.

25. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 21 or 22, in which the means for modifying the partitioning are adapted to effect a translation of the partitioning with respect to the signal.

26. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 21 or 22, in which the means for modifying the partitioning are adapted to select a modified partitioning which is in a predetermined set of partitionings.

27. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claims 21 or 22, in which the determination and modification means are incorporated in:

a microprocessor;

a read only memory containing a program for processing the data; and

a random access memory containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of said program.

28. (Currently Amended) A device for coding a digital signal representing physical quantities, including the division device according to Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

29. (Currently Amended) A digital signal processing apparatus, including means adapted to implement the method according to Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

30. (Currently Amended) A digital signal processing apparatus, including the device according to Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

31. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for implementing a method according to Claims 1, 2, 7, or 8.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A storage medium according to claim 31 storing a program for implementing a method of dividing a digital signal representing physical quantities, the method comprising the steps of:

determining an initial partitioning of the signal;

displaying a representation of the signal and a representation of the previously determined signal partitioning superimposed onto the representation of the signal;

acquiring at least one partitioning modification parameter through an intervention by a user;

modifying the partitioning of the signal in accordance with the at least one partitioning modification parameter; and

displaying a representation of the modified partitioning,

in which the storage medium is detachably mountable on a device according to Claims 14, 15, 21, or 22.

33. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 32, in which the storage medium is a floppy disk or a CD-ROM.